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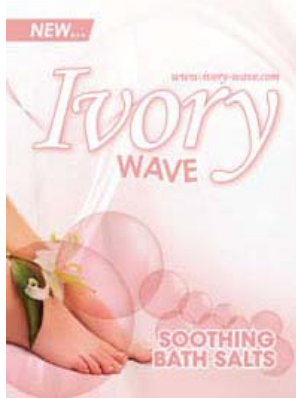
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If you would like more information about the topics covered in this issue for your group or organization please contact MATFORCE.

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Brewer signs bill outlawing 'bath salts' drug

Yvonne Wingett Sanchez, *The Republic/AZCentral.com*



Gov. Jan Brewer has signed the first bill of the 2012 legislative session, outlawing seven chemicals used to make a drug under the name "bath salts" to the state's list of dangerous drugs. The bill has an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Kimberly MacEachern, staff attorney at Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council, praised the new law but said it took too long to get it passed. "We are happy this is finally the law because it will no longer infer to the children that these drugs are OK," said MacEachern, who lobbied on behalf of the bill. "And we need to speed up the process

for future listings." She said law enforcement is so frustrated with the use of "bath salts" that the town of Cottonwood passed an ordinance outlawing it about a month ago.

[Click here to read the full article from The Arizona Republic.](#)

Recent ban on "Bath Salts" leads to back door sales of the newly illegal drug

Sgt. Brandon Bonney, Prescott Valley Police Dept.

On February 24th at approximately 4:00 P.M. members of the Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking (PANT) served search warrants on two Prescott Valley businesses and 3 Prescott businesses who were selling "Bath Salts". They were assisted by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Special Crimes Unit, Prescott Valley Police, Prescott Police, DEA Taskforce, Arizona Liquor Control, Arizona Department of Economic Security and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as the Yavapai County Attorney's Office.

These businesses sold the bath salt products when it was not yet illegal under state law. Since the legislation has passed making certain ingredients in the product illegal, they have continued to sell the product illegally and in some cases literally out of the back door.

Investigators executed the warrants on the X-Hale Smoke Shop, located in the 8100 block of Spouse in Prescott Valley, Mario's Mexican Market, located in the 8100 block of Spouse in Prescott Valley, Quick Stop, located in the 400 block of S. Montezuma in Prescott, C-Stop located in the 300 block of Grove in Prescott and Mike's Mini Mart located in the 900 block of E. Gurley in Prescott. Between the 5 stores, investigators seized three handguns and synthetic drugs. They seized approximately 1,157 packages of "Bath Salt" related products and 3,234 packages of Spice or related products. There is an estimated value of approximately \$130,000.00 on the products seized (excluding handguns). While the investigation is ongoing and there are criminal charges pending against other individuals related to these warrants, investigators did make 4 in custody arrests on the day of the warrants.

The products were being sold in a manner that led investigators to believe the merchants were aware it was now illegal. In most cases the product was not in view and was sold to people in a private manner to conceal the transaction. "Bath Salts" are now considered a dangerous drug and possession of it is a class 4 felony and sales of dangerous drugs is a class 2 felony.

Reporter faces backlash for teen drinking story

Jeff Glor, CBSNews.com

(CBS News) A recent series of expose reports by CBS News Washington, D.C., affiliate WUSA got such a strong reaction, it forced the reporter off the air and put her family at risk. Andrea McCarren says she did that to deal with some of the fallout, but now she's back on-air to re-focus on the issue of underage drinking.

McCarren returned to her station's broadcast Wednesday night after a break for a series of hard-hitting reports about underage drinking.

Immediately after the report aired, young people, upset McCarren had blown their cover flooded the station's Facebook page with angry messages. "You're now the most hated woman in the D.C. metro area," one person wrote.

The comments only got nastier after McCarren fronted another report about a police raid on an underage party. That bust took a surprising turn when parents arrived at the scene and were upset with the police and McCarren -- but not their own children.

McCarren said she was "flabbergasted" by the reaction. I'm now in about my 27th year as a reporter and I have never seen anything like this. It seems like these suburban, affluent kids have simply never been told 'no.' They have an inflated sense of entitlement. They feel entitled to cell phones, computers, cars, and in this case, they appear to feel entitled to doing something illegal, which is drink underage of 21."

Erica Hill remarked, "One of the most surprising parts about that backlash from the outside is the reaction that you got from parents who were equally outraged as their teenagers were. One of the most memorable things, was at an underage drinking party that was busted by police, one of the parents showed up to collect his son and he said right in front of police, 'Why didn't you run?'"

"Personally, as a reporter...I felt like I could not cover one more carload of drunk kids wrapped around a tree and interview one more set of grieving parents without trying to do something with this extraordinary reach of the media to affect positive change. We will absolutely be staying on this story.

[Click here to read the full article from CBSNews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com)

Zannies and Kratom

Various sources compiled from the Internet

Zannies - A little compact breath spray like dispenser, filled with a cotton candy smelling, blue liquid. The taste was like a mix of cotton candy and baby ambisol causing numbness. The effects came on within 15 minutes and lasted about an hour: a very warm, relaxing feeling.

<http://drug.addictionblog.org/what-is-kratom/>

Kratom - Kratom is a psychoactive herbal product. Its effects on the individual vary.

At a lower dose, Kratom has an energizing effect and enhances the mood with an accompanying feeling of mild euphoria. Kratom does not make you uncoordinated and doesn't affect the operation of the intellect.

At higher doses, there is a sedative action on the body and yet the brain still remains alert. The feeling of euphoria is more intense. If however, the dose gets too high then you can become nauseous and may well be physically sick.



Use technology to fight DUI

Wisconsin State Journal - excerpt from editorial

Dane County is expanding its use of a more sensitive test given to high-risk drivers. The pilot project has shown enough promise that it's expanding next year to help track three times as many offenders.

Here's how it works: The worst repeat offenders who aren't supposed to be drinking at all are tested for the presence of alcohol in their systems. A simple urine test can detect alcohol use within the last few days. But a new "biomarker" blood test can flag alcohol use weeks after it is ingested.

This biomarker program tracked 100 high-risk drivers during the last year. Almost half continued heavy drinking after an arrest, and half of those subjects denied drinking, according to Pamela Bean, who leads the effort.

The more elaborate testing makes it harder for repeat offenders in monitoring programs to game the system. And that allows Dane County to keep more repeat offenders off the roads and in treatment until they can show they're able to stay sober.

[Click here to read the full article from the Wisconsin State Journal.](#)

'Spice' makers alter recipes to sidestep state laws banning synthetic marijuana



Just months after Virginia and dozens of other states banned synthetic marijuana, the chemists who make it have found a way to outfox lawmakers.

Spice manufacturers, who spray herbs with compounds that mimic the active ingredient in marijuana, have altered their recipes just enough to skirt the bans and are again openly marketing spice in stores and on the Web. Some users report that the new generation of products could be more potent than the original formulas, which have sickened hundreds nationwide and been linked to deaths. Users have experienced seizures, hallucinations, vomiting, anxiety

and an accelerated heart rate, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Prosecutions of three of the largest spice busts in Virginia — including one in Falls Church — have hit roadblocks because the spice that police seized does not contain banned chemicals listed in state law. Authorities in Florida, Indiana, Illinois and Alaska have encountered similar problems.

[Click here to read the full article from The Washington Post.](#)

Dangers of Alcohol and Youth

Join us for a panel discussion on underage drinking. Testimony will be shared from two young people who began drinking at the age of 11.

March 29, 2012 ~ 11:30a to 1p

Board of Supervisors Room - Prescott

teleconferenced to

Board of Supervisors Room - Cottonwood

**Lunch 'n
Learn**

What are you Seeing?



Please send any news, information, trends, observations or story ideas to:

matforce@cableone.net

Please share this newsletter with anyone who may find this information useful. Look for the next issue of **Reality Check** in May 2012.

Young adults down 9 drinks when they binge, CDC says

Excerpt from Associated Press article on AZCentral.com



ATLANTA -- College-age drinkers average nine drinks when they get drunk, government health officials said Tuesday. That surprising statistic is part of a new report highlighting the dangers of binge drinking, which usually means four to five drinks at a time.

Overall, about 1 in 6 U.S. adults surveyed said they had binged on alcohol at least once in the previous month, though it was more than 1 in 4 for those ages 18 to 34. Health officials estimate that about half of the beer, wine and liquor consumed in the United States by adults each year is downed during binge drinking.

Binge drinking is generally defined as four drinks for women and five for men in a period of a few hours. Binge drinkers ages 18 to 24 reported nine drinks, or one more than the national average of eight drinks.

Binge drinking may be considered socially acceptable -- to many, a fun night out at the bar. And many don't see it as a sign of a serious drinking problem. But health officials say binge drinking accounts for more than 40,000 deaths each year.

[Click here to read the full article from AZCentral.com.](#)

Stoned driving is uncharted territory

Ralph Vartabedian, The Los Angeles Times

Experts say they don't know what level of marijuana impairs a driver, but statistics show that fatal crashes involving drugged drivers have jumped. Law enforcement puts much of the blame on the growth of medical marijuana use.

The most recent assessment by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, based on random roadside checks, found that 16.3% of all drivers nationwide at night were on various legal and illegal impairing drugs, half them high on marijuana.

In California alone, nearly 1,000 deaths and injuries each year are blamed directly on drugged drivers, according to CHP data, and law enforcement puts much of the blame on the rapid growth of medical marijuana use in the last decade. Fatalities in crashes where drugs were the primary cause and alcohol was not involved jumped 55% over the 10 years ending in 2009.

"Marijuana is a significant and important contributing factor in a growing number of fatal accidents," said Gil Kerlikowske, director of National Drug Control Policy in the White House and former Seattle police chief.

As the medical marijuana movement has gained speed — one-third of the states now allow such sales — federal officials are pursuing scientific research into the impairing effects of the drug.

Federal scientists envision a day when police could quickly swab saliva from drivers' mouths and determine whether they have an illegal level of marijuana, but that will require years of research. Until then, police are in the same position they were with drunk driving in the 1950s, basing arrests on their professional judgment of each driver's behavior and vital signs.

[Click here to read the full article from The Los Angeles Times.](#)



A medical marijuana card isn't a license to drive under the influence.